

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 DPW-01 AID-20 DRC-01 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 /125 W

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R 120956Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2354

INFO 13TH ADVON UDORN

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

SECDEF

CINCPAC

USSAG NKP

UNCLAS BANGKOK 5989

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH

SUBJ: PRACHA KUNAKHASEM ON U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS; B-52S OVER THE  
INDIAN OCEAN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN PRACHA KUNAKHASEM'S NEWS CONFERENCE OF APRIL 11:

REPORTER: HAVE FURTHER CONSULTATIONS BEEN HELD OVER THE WITHDRAWALS OF AMERICAN FORCES FROM THAILAND?

PRACHA: I UNDERSTAND THAT CONTACTS ARE MADE REGULARLY AFTER AGREEMENT ON MAJOR PRINCIPLES WAS REACHED. SINCE THIS CONCERNS THE MILITARY I WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR DETAILS FROM THE SUPREME COMMAND (FORWARD) REGARDING WHICH UNITS AND WHAT KINDS OF PLANES WILL BE WITHDRAWN, AND FROM WHERE. THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON VARIOUS PRINCIPLES IN THE  
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AGREEMENT REACHED HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED BY ALL NEWSPAPERS

ALREADY, A STATEMENT WHICH STATES THAT THESE REDUCTIONS WILL INCLUDE BOTH STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL AIRCRAFT AND ABOUT 10,000 MILITARY MANPOWER SPACES.

REPORTER: IN REGARD TO THE REPORT STATING THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL SEND B-52S FROM U TAPAO ON PATROLS OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN, HAS PERMISSION BEEN OBTAINED FROM THAILAND YET?

PRACHA: I WISH TO EXPLAIN FACTS AND THE TRUTH FIRST. DURING A MEETING, A QUESTION WAS PUT AS A HYPOTHESIS TO THE SPOKESMAN OF THE U.S. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT. THE QUESTION WAS SHOULD AIR PATROLS BE CARRIED OUT OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN USING B-52S, FROM WHERE WOULD THOSE PLANES BE OPERATED? THE SPOKESMAN OF THE U.S. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT REPLIED THAT NO CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN PAID TO TAKING SUCH ACTION, BUT SHOULD IT BE TAKEN UP FOR CONSIDERATION HE BELIEVES THE PLANES MIGHT OPERATE FROM THAILAND. HE MADE EVASIVE ANSWERS BUT HE DID NOT STATE THAT THE PLANES WOULD OPERATE FROM THAILAND. THIS IS THE BASIS OF THE REPORT SPREAD. FACTS REGARDING OPERATION OF AIR PATROLS ARE: 1. THERE IS NO NEED TO USE B-52S FOR AIR PATROLS BECAUSE THEY ARE MOST UNSUITABLE FOR OPERATING AIR PATROLS; AND 2. SHOULD PLANES FLY FROM A BASE IN THAILAND, BOTH THE THAI MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE AND OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAVE STATED ALREADY THAT CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE HELD WITH THAILAND FIRST.

REPORTER: DO WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT ON THE SENDING OF PLANES FROM BASES IN OUR COUNTRY ON MISSIONS ELSEWHERE?

PRACHA: THERE IS NO AGREEMENT. SINCE WE ARE THE OWNERS OF THAILAND WE SHOULD BE CONSULTED FIRST. YOU SHOULD ASK LT. GEN. KRIANGSAK CHOMANAN FOR DETAILS, NOT COME AND PUT SUCH QUESTIONS TO ME.  
MASTERS

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